In response to discussion at the September P-16 Council meeting of the new online Individual Learning Plan and other Web-based initiatives, council members requested a demonstration of the e3.ky.gov Web site, a demand-driven information and services Web portal that integrates Kentucky's education, employment, and economic development data. It provides no-cost access to specific job-related services for seekers and employers and a wide selection of searchable workforce and educational data for researchers, program planners, economic developers, elected officials, the general public, and others interested in Kentucky's human capital and economic landscape.

Rather than replicating current technology initiatives, e3.ky.gov was built on existing systems with leveraged resources to create a gateway approach. It eliminates the need to navigate multiple government Web sites and makes high-demand information searchable in a dynamic, geographically layered format specific to Kentucky, its internal subdivisions, and the regional economies shared with neighboring states.

Initially proposed in January 2004, e3.ky.gov development began in August 2004. Version 1.0 was built with Kentucky Adult Education's allocation of FY 2003 Workforce Incentive funds ($399,000) provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment, and Training Administration. KYAE also provided first-year sponsorship, including ongoing development, implementation support, maintenance and support, and marketing. The e3.ky.gov Web site was "live" with version 1.0 in June 2005.

Because e3.ky.gov version 1.0 provided some services for both job seekers and employers, the Kentucky Office of Employment and Training recognized that, with some modification and expansion, e3.ky.gov offered the most cost-effective option for Kentucky to address the loss of America's Job Bank, which, since the mid-1990s, was used by most state workforce agencies as a national labor clearinghouse for job orders and job seekers. In March 2006, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that it would end AJB funding June 30, 2007. States were encouraged to develop their own self-service systems or to partner with other national job-board providers, many of which charged employers to post their job openings.

Development of e3.ky.gov version 2.0 began in August 2006, focusing on Kentucky's no-cost, self-service employer functions and charged with the goal of "revolutionizing the way that the Kentucky OET does business." Bringing the OET's services to the employer's desktop and allowing employers to contact job seekers without staff intervention were among the challenges that developers faced in a 10-month initiative tied to the loss of AJB services. Version 2.0 of e3.ky.gov went live for employer use July 2, 2007, at a cost of $350,000 in Workforce Investment Act Administrative and America's Labor Market Information System funds.

The Web site for e3.ky.gov is designed to be available for use by any public or private employer in the Commonwealth. Anyone who has a federal identification number can log onto the site to

see potential employees. Potential employees can log on to submit a resume. Employers can post jobs, review resumes, and arrange interviews on the Web site. To date, 40,000 employers are registered to use the e3 system through the Employ Kentucky Operating System, and approximately 50,000 resumes have been posted.

Governed through a unique, multi-agency and cabinet collaboration, e3.ky.gov uses a comprehensive structure to manage and enhance the application. Coalition partners include the Council on Postsecondary Education, Kentucky Adult Education, the Department for Workforce Investment Office of Employment and Training, the Education Cabinet's Office of the Secretary, and the Cabinet for Economic Development's Office of the Secretary. The e3.ky.gov application was developed by the Education Cabinet's Division of Technology Services.

Jim Thompson, KYAE workforce specialist, will give a demonstration of the Web site at the December 12 meeting.